

LESSON 3

■ Objectives

Students will:

1. Listen to songs that feature the yodel.
2. Identify instruments of Austria and the alpine countries.
3. Sing an Austrian folk song.
4. Accompany the folk song with guitar or Autoharp.
5. Locate Austria, Bavarian Germany, and Switzerland on a map of Europe.

■ Materials

1. Recording: *Jodler und Schuhplattler* (Fiesta FLPS 1905)
2. Guitar
3. Autoharp
4. Map of Europe

■ Procedures

1. Play a recording from *jodlerer* (yodel songs) and *schuhplattler* (folk dances that feature the boot slapping of men). Call attention to the preponderance of triple meter and to the arpeggiated melodies in major keys. Many yodel songs are organized into a verse-refrain form, the refrain of which is usually the yodeling of syllables rather than words.
2. Sing "The Cuckoo's Song" in unison, adding the harmony if appropriate for the age level (see figure 15). The language is an alpine Austrian dialect of German.

Pronunciation:

Vehn dehr goo-goo-shrite, ahft ees lahng-ees-tsité.

Veerd dehr schnee fehr-gehn, veern dee vees-lahn green.

Translation:

When the cuckoo calls, early springtime falls.

Oh di lay le oh. Hoh di lay lee lay lee oh

All the snow will go, meadows green will grow.

Oh di lay le oh. Hoh di loh

Oh di lay le oh. Hoh di lay lee lay lee oh

Oh di lay le oh. Hoh di loh

3. While singing, add a pat-clap-snap gesture to keep the triple meter feeling.
4. Accompany the song on guitar or Autoharp.
5. On a map of Europe, locate the Germanic countries of Austria, Switzerland, and the southern part of Germany known as Bavaria. Discuss the possible reasons for the development of the yodel. Could it be that the Alps motivated people to sing from one mountain to the next for the pure enjoyment of the echo (in which case words were not necessary and the pitched cries of the arpeggiated melody collided into chords as they were bounced back to the singer)?